

ST. MARY PARISH

518 South 2nd Street; PO Box 847; Guttenberg, Iowa 52052

July 10, 2025 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-880-6017 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY:

~ St. Mary's Liturgy Committee

Anxiety and worry are prevalent in the world today. It is easy to see why: violence, poverty and addiction are constantly in the news. People who live under conditions of uncertainty and stress can develop physical ailments and even have difficulty making important decisions because they are busy trying to survive. Jesus invites us to understand we are beloved, whatever our external circumstances. The great commandment of love is not something mysterious or remote. Indeed it is very near to us. Yet how difficult it is to fulfill - being neighbor to whomever is in need. But if we seek God we must "go and do the same" for we have been created in, for and through Christ. You need not do anything to earn the Love of God. We only need to behave as a neighbor by showing God's mercy to those in need. If this sounds too hard, know that Jesus is on your side. He wants to help us become more loving, more kind and forgiving toward everyone. So ask the Lord, the one who loved his enemies perfectly, to soften your heart and move you to love as he does.

Volunteers Needed for RAGBRAI

St. Mary's Parish has rented our smaller parking lot and our soccer field (west of the Purple Park) to RAGBRAI riders. We are in need of volunteers at these 2 parking sites to direct vehicles to designated parking spots on **Friday, July 18** from 10am-10pm and **Sat. July 19** from 5am-10am. Instructions will be provided.

By providing this parking, St. Mary's Parish will receive approximately \$4000!

Time slots are 2 hrs and we have 24 slots to fill. Sign up sheets are at the back of church or call the parish office.

Please sign up today!!

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts on Sunday, July 20 after Mass in Brinkmann Hall.



Journey in Faith is our new pastoral planning process to renew discipleship and strengthen parish life. It is a response to real challenges—but grounded in hope and trust in the Holy Spirit. Every parish will be involved in shaping the future. Learn more at DbqJourneyInFaith.com.

We need 3 more people for our Journey in Faith Team. Please call the office, 563-252-1247 if you would like to be on the team. All that is required is an open-mind and your time. Training will be provided.

The next Eucharistic Adoration is Wednesday, August 6. The signup sheet is in the back of church.

The meeting room in the rectory has been updated with a new ceiling, ceiling fan/light and paint. Many thanks to all those who helped including Larry Wille & Crew(Kaden A, Brinlee A and Matthew K), Dale Wille, Jim Schlueter, Marv Althoff, Friends of St. Mary's and anyone else I have missed.

There will be an all-priest gathering to focus on leadership and prayerful discernment of the Journey in Faith Pastoral Planning initiative on Thursday, July 17. We ask all parishioners to pray the rosary or offer another prayer on Thursday, July 17 for the success of Journey in Faith.

Mass Schedule: July 14 – July 20, 2025

Mon., Jul 14: No Mass Scheduled

Tues., Jul 15: 8:30 A.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Harold & Lois Mueller

Wed., Jul 16: 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Jo Thein

Thur., Jul 17: No Mass Scheduled

Fri., Jul 18: 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Jim & Mary Gamerdinger
9:00—9:45 A.M. Confessions

Sat., Jul 19: Vigil of Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
People of the Parish
5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Robert & Joan Goedken

Sun., Jul 20: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. Mass – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish
10:00 A.M. – Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*
People of the Parish

This is one of Jesus' most famous parables. If you hear the phrase The Good Samaritan most people know what we are talking about, but few people know how scary the situation was for that traveler who was victim." Jesus paints a picture that was very believable for the people of his day. They would know of the hazards of the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

Jericho is about 17 miles from Jerusalem, but it is not an easy 17 miles. When Jesus said a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, he meant it. Jericho is 2,800 feet below Jerusalem. The road was very steep, and it wound its way through an area of limestone caves that were perfect hiding places for thieves. The area was so dangerous that the road became known as "Bloody Pass".

In this parable, the priest and the Levite, who was a temple assistant, represented the listeners. The fact that these two did not stop would have made the listeners uncomfortable, but they would have understood the reasoning of the two. You see, thieves would sometimes pretend to be victims, and then they would grab the people who stopped to help. Also, the priest and the Levite were expected to maintain ritual purity, and if the traveler was dead and they touched him they would not be able to perform their duties until they were cleansed.

On the other hand, they did have a problem. If the traveler was a Jew, and he was still alive, then they were required to help him. The solution, evidently, was to just assume the worse, and to pass by him. If they felt any compassion for the man, they don't show it. The man who did show compassion and charity was a Samaritan. It is interesting that Jesus picked a Samaritan, because at the time, there was a bitter tension between the Samaritans and the Jews. The Samaritans were descendants of a mixed racial population who constructed their own place of worship in Samaria and consequently were seen as heretics. In the minds of the Jews, there was no such thing as a "good" Samaritan.

Not only is the Samaritan the only one who shows compassion and mercy, but he continues to do more and more for the victim. He cleaned the man's wounds and bandaged them. He put him on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he continued to care for him. Then, he paid the innkeeper to continue to care for him. And finally, he left himself open to even more expenses, when he told the innkeeper, "if you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back."

The message of this gospel is clear. Jesus wants us to emulate the compassion and the mercy of the Samaritan. His command of "Go and do likewise" reminds me of the words of Moses when he was talking about the law of God in the first reading. He said "it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts, you have only to carry it out." I believe that Moses was correct. We usually know what is the right thing to do; we just have to do it. Most of us don't have the opportunity of rescuing a traveler as in the parable, but we can show compassion and mercy in many different ways. We just have to be open to the opportunity and then take action.

A Stewardship Moment

The good Samaritan was also a good steward, giving his time and his treasure to meet his neighbor's need. At the end of this familiar story, Jesus urges his hearers - and us - to go and do the same!

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

Jul 11: Parish Life Fundraiser Cookout at Benders, 11-6
 Jul 12: Parish Life Fundraiser Cookout at Benders, 11-6
 Jul 14: Liturgy Mtg, 9:30am, PC
 Jul 20: Coffee & Donuts after Mass, BH
 Jul 23: Parish Vitality Meeting, 6:30pm, PC
 Jul 28: Liturgy Mtg, 9:30am, PC
 Finance Mtg, Noon, PC
 Parish Council Mtg, 6:30pm, PC
 Aug 3: Patriotic Rosary, 5:30pm
 Aug 6: Eucharistic Adoration, 9am—7pm

Journey in Faith Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You accompanied your disciples on the way to Emmaus. As we journey in faith, we trust in your Spirit to open our eyes to set our hearts on fire and to transform our parishes. Make yourself known to us through breaking open word and bread, that we may travel together on mission; to grow disciples, cultivate leaders, and unify parishes, with our journey ending in You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Priest: Fr. Paul Kwaku Ameyaw, 563-880-6017
 Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696
 Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471
 Youth Ministry: Katey Simon, 563-219-4129
 Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026
 Liturgy: Wendy Shea, 563-419-2652
 Social Concerns: Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967
 Choir: Anna Moser, 563-880-1176
 Secretary: Lisa Kies, 880-1946; officeofstmary@gmail.com

Finance:
 Jim Schlueter
 563-252-1490
 Marv Althoff
 Jeff Burr
 Tom Augustyn
 Sharon Keehner
 Austin Greve

Parish Council:
 Beth Sadewasser, Chair
 563-880-2743
 Jessie Young, Gerald
 Bormann, Lois Bries
 Adam Scherbring
 Larry Wille

Parish Center: Lora Kolker, 563-880-9111
 Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1577
 Knights: Dale Wille, 309-232-9476
 St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490
 Cath Daughters: Janet Happel: 319-530-9121
 Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666
 Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469
 St. Mary Alumni: Pat Kolker, 563-880-9815
 Phoebe Johnson: 563 880-4767

Stephen Ministry: Becky Shaffer, 319-393-1234